

## Today's Topics:

airport security  
Kenwood TS-440s -> KAM Hookup (Help)  
Product Review: HMC-2 VOX HEADSET (2 msgs)  
QSLs and SASEs

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Date: 7 Nov 89 14:20:02 GMT

From: rochester!ray@louie.udel.edu (Ray Frank)

Subject: airport security

In article <1674@agora.UUCP> firebug@.UUCP (Sam Guidice) writes:

>A few years ago I was on a flight from NY to Las Vegas.  
>During the flight, I was trying to find a World Series score  
>on the radio. I , at the time, knew nothing about interference.  
>It could have been my imagination, I think it wasn't, but when the radio  
>went on, I felt the engine decellerate.  
>  
>I turned the radio on & off two times. This happened each time.  
>  
>I then tucked the radio away for the rest of the flight.  
>I was using the AM radio. I wonder if the FM would interfere as well.  
  
>What does cause the interference, if you arent transmitting anything?

Once while a passenger aboard a 747, I was able to do, with the skillful tuning of an FM radio, three flawless touch and go landings at an abandoned mid-west airstrip. After that, I allowed the by now confused pilots to continue the flight on to our destination. And except for just one wing-over later in the flight, I didn't mess with the radio again, THAT DAY! 8-)

ray

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Date: 7 Nov 89 02:23:17 GMT

From: virgin!ubbs-nh!noel@decvax.dec.com (N. Del More)

Subject: Kenwood TS-440s -> KAM Hookup (Help)

I need some advise on the proper hookup of the Kantronics KAM HF port to the Kenwood TS-440s transceiver.

I am running the cable from the HF port of the KAM to ACC2 (13 pin DIN) of the Kenwood. So far I have it working with the exception that when

the KAM toggles the PTT it does not mute the microphone.

As it stands now I have the following wired:

KAM	TS-440S
White (1)	11
Black (2)	8
Brown (3)	13
(Red) (6)	3 (Audio Signal, Color is arbitrary)
Green (4)	CW jack tip

According to the TS-440S manual, pin 9 of ACC 2 mutes the microphone if grounded, but how to do it alluding me at the moment.

Thanks in advance for any help.

73's

Noel  
N2AXI

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Noel B. Del More		decvax!ubbs-nh!noel
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Date: 6 Nov 89 21:21:27 GMT  
From: rochester!rit!ultb!cep4478@louie.udel.edu (C.E. Piggott)  
Subject: Product Review: HMC-2 VOX HEADSET

Oh yes, I forgot to mention two observations about vox headsets (in general).

(1) if you're full-quieting into a repeater, sometimes people start talking back to you before the vox drops PTT. This is probably because most people don't hold PTT for a full second after they're done talking. I noticed this by accidentally flipping to a repeater I don't normally use, one without a courtesy tone. The courtesy tone is a big help with the vox.

(2) I am going to have to learn better control on the highway. I don't mean about handling the radio, nor about my driving, I mean about screaming "GET OUT OF THE %\*@\$ WAY, YOU STUPID \*!#@\$ BABOON!!!" when a friendly fellow New Yorker tries to give me some of his paint. etc.

Chris

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Date: 6 Nov 89 19:40:21 GMT  
From: rochester!rit!ultb!cep4478@louie.udel.edu (C.E. Piggott)  
Subject: Product Review: HMC-2 VOX HEADSET

Hi!

I usually like to write up what I think after I buy new radio toys for the net to read. I wish \_everybody\_ did this!

I purchased one of the vox microphone/headsets from Kenwood, for my TH-215A handheld. I have thus far been very happy with the handheld, and also own a hand mic (SMC-30, the full-size model) which I am very happy with.

The headset turned out to be a little different than I had expected. The one made by ICOM is the 'usual' style - it is styled just like a high-quality pair of walkman headphones, except with only a single speaker and the microphone boom. The HMC-32 has a very light headset, with no speaker on it: you listen with an attached in-the-ear speaker - it is similar to the new style stereo headphones, sitting in your outer ear (not ear canal).

The speaker quality is fairly good, though it has much less high frequency response than the hand speaker-mic does. I'm not sure what effect this will have when I'm driving in my noisy car, but at any rate incoming audio is perfectly understandable. By far the biggest ADVANTAGE of the in-the-ear style plug is that it lets in sounds from your environment when the speaker is silent: if there is nobody on the frequency, then you can still hear your world around you. The disadvantage is that it's fatiguing to have the thing sit in your ear, especially if you've got a smaller ear, and after an hour or two you REALLY want to yank it out, or switch the headset to the other side.

I have gotten EXCELLENT reports on my audio so far. This is partly due to a high-quality microphone, but is mostly because it stays a fixed distance from your vocal apparatus. As usual, VOX takes some time to get used to. The vox delay is not adjustable, and is about one second. Adjusting vox sensitivity is not bad, either - on the TH-215, you can put arrange it so that with TX LOCK on, the radio will 'beep' to let you know that you tried to transmit, so by noticing where the beeps occur you can quickly learn how to speak so as to not let your first be syllable chopped off.

Finally, construction: it's all plastic (isn't everything these days). You can turn vox off and use a PTT switch built into the vox unit, and, as usual, this PTT switch seems to be made to last through many excited QSO's. However, the switch that disables VOX is not too impressive, and being a switch I'm likely to use a lot I will certainly keep my eyes on it, because I don't trust it much. Also, since this type of headset sits ABOVE the ear, it would be nice if the boom were a little longer.

The only other note is that it would be really nice to have an LED on the top of the microphone to let me know when I am transmitting. I know for certain that this is possible: Kenwood's miniature speaker microphone has such an LED, and I suspect that a 0.7v drop wouldn't hurt performance too much. (the vox unit is, of course, powered by the HT).

Well, that's my \$0.02 on the matter. If anybody else owns one of these things, please drop me a note re: what you think of my comments on it. In general, I've been VERY happy with my TH-215, and all the accessories that I have, so the vox headset was a little less thrilling than I had expected, but if I decide to return it after a week's usage, it'll be for financial reasons rather than quality. Very few people own these things, I notice - probably because I look like a SERIOUS geek when I'm wearing it. (It's mostly for the car, and when I'm typing).

de Chris, N2JGW

Rochester Institute of Technology  
Amateur Radio Club, K2GXT

These opinions are my own, and have nothing to do with Kenwood or any other company, nor the Rochester Institute of Technology, which has no opinions that don't relate to degradation of student life and last dime.

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Date: 7 Nov 89 15:50:50 GMT  
From: cs.utexas.edu!ut-emx!trey@tut.cis.ohio-state.edu (Trey Garlough)  
Subject: QSLs and SASEs

In article <7120092@hpcupt1.HP.COM>, holly@hpcupt1.HP.COM (Jim Hollenback) writes:  
> I sent Frank a nice letter with a SASE asking the name of the operator,  
> but of course he never bothered to reply.

Although Frank's station makes a lot of QSOs, I believe he should lighten up and realize that QSLing is very important to many people, even if it's

not so important to him.

> Wish we could start a movement where the big testers that do reply to  
> QSL get their logs rejected and can not submit until the past due QSL's  
> are mailed.

On the other hand, I'm not sure how QSLing is germane to contest operating ethics. Did Frank ever promise you a card? Why do you think that you deserve a reply? Can your use of US mail to pester Frank for a card be considered harassment?

> Or maybe a column in QST where you can send in the list of stations  
> that refuse to reply to SASE's so everyone can find out who does not  
> reply so you won't bother working them. Sort'a like a DX manager's list,  
> but for the stations that don't QSL.

I think these suggestions are more realistic. I would rather not see valuable inches of QST wasted on this, but it might be interesting to see someone like W6GO occasionally publish a "QSLing Hall of Shame."

One fact that has been overlooked in this discussion is that QSLing is a \*courtesy\*. If Frank refuses to honor the tradition of courtesy that QSLing had enjoyed through the years, then I (personally) am able to consider Frank nothing less than discourteous. If you want to "get back at Frank" and his success in contesting because he didn't send you a card, then I suggest that you never call Frank ever again in another contest. Furthermore, I suggest you contact his competitors, giving them a few extra points. Eventually, those handful of QSOs he loses because his philosophy about sending cards will cost him the difference between first and second place (or 10th and 11th -- a slot in the Top Ten, hee hee). When this happens, you will be able to have a good laugh. After all, there are plenty of other hams in Maryland who are happy to send QSLs.

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End of INFO-HAMS Digest V89 Issue #851  
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